

38.29. (DSS: Faith-Based Private Child Placing Agencies) From the funds appropriated to the Department of Social Services, the department shall make and promulgate such rules and regulations relating to licensing standards and other matters as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of Title 63, Chapter 11, Article 1 of the 1976 Code as applied to faith-based private Child Placing Agencies. For purposes of these regulations, any person or entity who holds legal or physical custody of a child for the purpose of placement for foster care or adoption or a private placement and, which for the purposes of these regulations, retain their own system of foster homes, is a child placing agency as defined in S.C. Code of Regulations 114-550. Such regulation must not discriminate or suggest the taking of any adverse action against a faith-based child-placing agency or an agency seeking to become a child-placing agency on the basis, wholly or partly, that a faith-based child placing agency has declined or will decline to provide any service that conflicts with, or provide any service under circumstances that conflict with, a sincerely-held religious belief or moral conviction of the faith-based child placing agency.